CLAIMS

Having thus described the systems and methods for intelligent routing, we claim the following:

1   1.   A method for intelligently routing hard-copy generation tasks,
2   comprising the steps of:
3   accessing imaging service data from a network connected computing device;
4   accessing imaging data from at least one store via the network to generate at
5   least one criterion; and
6   presenting the means to access at least one hard-copy generation service
7   capable of performing a particular hard-copy generation task matching the at least one
8   criterion.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the presenting step comprises
2   recommending at least one hard-copy generation service communicatively coupled via
3   the network.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2   initiating a hard-copy generation request.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing imaging service
2   data comprises retrieving logic.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing imaging service
2   data comprises retrieving content descriptors.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing imaging data
2   comprises retrieving imaging data from the at least one store.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing imaging data
2   comprises retrieving a scaled-down version of a document.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing imaging data
2   comprises accessing imaging data through use of an imaging extension.

1   9.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of recommending depends on

2   both the imaging service and the imaging data.

1   10.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of recommending comprises

2   presenting a plurality of user selectable destinations.

1   11.   The method of claim 8, wherein the imaging extension comprises part

2   of a user browser.

1   12.   The method of claim 8, wherein the imaging extension comprises logic

2   received from the imaging service data.

1   13.   The method of claim 10, wherein the step of recommending further

2   comprises presenting information describing the network location of each of the

3   plurality of user selectable destinations.

1   14.   A method for intelligently routing a task, comprising the steps of:

2   acquiring data regarding a plurality of services accessible to a network coupled

3   user computing device;

4   identifying a plurality of parameters that define a task;

5   identifying the capabilities of at least one resource associated with each of the

6   plurality of services;

7   associating at least one decision point with each of the plurality of parameters;

8   and

9   selectively adjusting the at least one decision point such that when the system

10   receives information reflective of data designated for a task, the decision point is used

11   in formulating a recommended resource to perform the task.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, wherein the step of acquiring data comprises

2   services suited for performing at least one hard-copy generation task.

1   16.   The method of claim 14, wherein the step of identifying a plurality of

2   parameters comprises resource control inputs.

1   17.   A system for recommending a network coupled resource, comprising:

2   means for developing a knowledge base concerning the capabilities of

3   available network coupled resources;

4   means for associating at least one content descriptor with a designated task;

5   means for developing logic responsive to the knowledge base;

6   means for communicating the logic and the at least one descriptor to an

7   application;

8   means for extracting the at least one content descriptor from a document in a

9   data store; and

10   means for identifying a recommended network coupled resource suited to

11   perform a designated data transformation.

1   18.   The system of claim 17, wherein the knowledge base development

2   means comprises information reflective of hard-copy generation services.

1   19.   The system of claim 17, wherein the associating means comprises

2   hard-copy generation device control inputs.

1   20.   The system of claim 17, wherein the communicating means comprises

2   a network.

1   21.   The system of claim 17, wherein the extracting means comprises an

2   imaging extension.

1   22.   The system of claim 17, wherein the identifying means comprises logic

2   communicated to a browser.

1   23.   The system of claim 21, wherein the imaging extension comprises part

2   of a browser.

1   24.   A method for assisting a user in selecting a hardcopy generation

2 service, comprising the steps of:

3   accessing imaging data;

4   formulating at least one criterion reflective of the imaging data;

5   accessing information reflective of a plurality of hardcopy generation services;

6   using the at least one criterion to identify hardcopy generation services; and

7   presenting the identified hardcopy generation services to the user.

1   25.   The method of claim 24, wherein the presenting step comprises

2 recommending at least one hard-copy generation service.

1   26.   The method of claim 24, further comprising:

2   initiating a hard-copy generation request.

1   27.   The method of claim 24, wherein the step of accessing imaging data

2 comprises data from a personal imaging repository.

1   28.   The method of claim 24, wherein the step of accessing information

2 comprises network coupled hard-copy generation services.

1   29.   The method of claim 28, wherein the hard-copy generation services are

2 coupled via the wide area network commonly known as the Internet.

1   30.   The method of claim 28, wherein the hard-copy generation services are

2 coupled via a local area network.

1   31.   The method of claim 24, wherein the at least one criterion identifies a

2 parameter range.

1   32.   The method of claim 31, wherein the parameter comprises a measure

2 of the size of a document.

1   33.   The method of claim 31, wherein the parameter comprises a measure

2 of color information.

1   34.   The method of claim 26, further comprising:

2   formulating a second criteria responsive to a user preference.

1   35.   The method of claim 34, further comprising:

2   identifying at least one recommended service responsive to the user

3 preference.